

## **Funding Opportunities for Wyoming Sage-Grouse Conservation Efforts** (revised April 2014)

This list of potential funding sources is not intended to be all encompassing. Various private foundations, companies and individuals not listed below often partner in conservation efforts. Finding and making contact with these potential partners is best accomplished on a local level. The list below includes funding sources that can address various scales of projects ranging from the individual landowner to multi-state efforts. Contact the sources for detailed information, eligibility and application criteria.

### **State of Wyoming Sources:**

**Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account** - Created by legislative action in 2005 for the purposes of preserving and enhancing Wyoming's wildlife and natural resources. Income from the trust account funds a wide variety of conservation programs. <http://wwnrt.state.wy.us>

**Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Trust Fund** - Matching grants program for riparian or upland habitat improvement, water development, and industrial water projects. <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>

**WGFD/Wyoming State General Fund – Wyoming Sage-Grouse Conservation Fund** - Funding approved by the legislature via the Governor's budget request designed to implement projects identified in local Sage-Grouse Conservation Plans. <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>

**Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB)** - Provides funding for the purposes of mitigating damage caused to livestock, wildlife and crops by predatory animals, predacious birds and depredating animals or for the protection of human health and safety. <http://www.wyadmb.com>

### **Federal Sources:**

**U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service** <http://www.fws.gov>

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program** – Provides assistance to private landowners who want to restore or improve habitat on their property. The landowner is reimbursed based on the cost sharing formula in the agreement, after project completion.

**Private Stewardship Program** – Provides grants or other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation efforts that benefits species listed or proposed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands. Maximum Federal share is 90%.

**Cooperative Conservation Initiative** - Supports efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat. Maximum Federal share is 50%.

**Multistate Conservation Grant Program** - Supports sport fish and wildlife restoration projects identified by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Maximum Federal share is 100%.

**Tribal Landowner Incentive Program** - For actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on tribal lands. Maximum Federal share is 75%.

**Tribal Wildlife Grants** – Provides for development and implementation of programs for the benefit of tribal wildlife and their habitat. Maximum Federal share is 100%.

**Conservation Grants** - Provides financial assistance to States to implement wildlife conservation projects such as habitat restoration, species status surveys, public education and outreach, captive propagation and reintroduction, nesting surveys, genetic studies and development of management plans. Maximum Federal share is 75 % for a single state or 90% for two or more states implementing a joint project.

**U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency (FSA)** <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** - A voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers and enhance wildlife habitat on eligible agricultural land.

**U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov>

**Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)** - Provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. This assistance is for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource issues.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** - Provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement a broad variety of structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

❖ **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** – With the enactment of the Agricultural Act (February 7, 2014) funding provided for WHIP in FY-2014 is no longer available for obligations. WHIP is not reauthorized. Portions of the WHIP Statute were rolled into EQIP. Anyone still interested in applying for wildlife projects should look into EQIP.

**Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)** - CIG is a voluntary program, funded under EQIP. It enables the NRCS to work with public and private entities to accelerate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production.

**Working Lands for Wildlife (WLW)** – WLW is a partnership between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to combat the decline of seven specific wildlife species whose decline could be reversed and benefited other species with similar habitat needs. The Greater Sage-Grouse is one of the seven.

**Conservation Stewardship program (CStwP)** - The Conservation Stewardship Program helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)** - ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land through conservation easements. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands. ACEP is a new program that consolidates three former programs – the Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program and Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP)** - RCCP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. RCCP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program, and delivers assistance through covered programs, including EQIP, CSP, ACEP, and Healthy Forest Reserve Program, and Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations in Critical Conservation Areas.

**U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management** <http://www.blm.gov>

**Challenge Cost Share** – This program is designed to leverage funds with partners to monitor and inventory resources; implement habitat improvement projects; develop recovery plans; protect or document cultural resources; provide enhanced recreational experiences; and to better manage wild horse and burro populations. Matching funds, goods or services are required.

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service** <http://www.fs.fed.us>

**Cooperative project funding** – Contact local U.S. Forest Service staff for information about opportunities to develop partnerships in projects involving National Forests or National Grasslands.

**Partnership Resource Center** - The Partnership Resource Center of the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the USDA - Forest Service (FS) provides partnering organizations and FS

staff with the information to enhance working relationships. Partnerships expand opportunities for obtaining grants. Many funding sources prefer or require them because projects involving partnerships have an increased potential for success. <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org>

**Other potential funding sources include but are not limited to:**

**Wyoming Wildlife – The Foundation** – The Wyoming Wildlife - The Foundation (now a component fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation) is a charitable, non-advocacy organization dedicated to conservation education and the funding and management of projects that benefit Wyoming wildlife. <http://www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org>

**Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition** - Funding generated from the sale of Governor’s licenses placed in five accounts: bighorn sheep, moose, elk, mule deer and general wildlife. Funds administered by the Wyoming Wildlife – The Foundation. <http://www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org/index.aspx>

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Conservation Partners Program** - Grants funded through Conservation Partners provide staff and technical assistance to private landowners in regions where some of the nation’s most crucial conservation issues can be addressed through Farm Bill programs. <http://www.nfwf.org/conservationpartners/Pages/home.aspx>

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Pulling Together Initiative (PTI)** - Provides support for the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships engage federal resource agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, and others in developing weed management projects within an integrated pest management strategy. Non-Federal matching funds, goods or services are required. <http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/home.aspx>

**Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) - Capacity Grants Program** - Habitats within the IWJV area support nearly 100% of the range of all high priority sagebrush steppe landbird species, such as: Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Sage-Grouse and Brewer’s Sparrow. The IWJV Capacity Grants Program is designed to build capacity and catalyze partnerships that measurably contribute to the protection, restoration, or enhancement of priority bird habitats to support sustainable populations of birds in the Intermountain West. Successful capacity grants are meant to join conservation partners together—around priority areas, habitats, or bird species—to improve conservation program effectiveness. <http://iwjv.org/funding-opportunity/iwjv-capacity-grants-program>

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** - TNC works with conservation supporters and partner organizations to create funding for conservation worldwide using a variety of creative methods. <http://nature.org>

**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)** - RMEF is a wildlife conservation organization with an emphasis on elk. It advocates sustainable, ethical use of resources and seeks common ground among stakeholders. RMEF funds habitat restoration and improvement projects, acquires land or conservation easements. <http://www.rmef.org>

**Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)** - MDF's goals center on restoring, improving and protecting mule deer habitat. MDF achieves its goals through partnering with state and federal wildlife agencies, conservation groups, businesses and individuals to fund and implement habitat enhancement projects on both public and private lands. <http://www.muledeer.org>

**Muley Fanatic Foundation (MFF)** – MFF's mission is to ensure the conservation of mule deer and their habitat and to provide such supporting services to further the sport of hunting and sound wildlife management. <http://www.muleyfanatic.com>

**One Shot Antelope Foundation -Water for Wildlife** - Water for Wildlife is a conservation program designed to benefit wildlife and the environment in arid regions of the West. Emphasis focuses on the development of supplemental water resources in areas where both the habitat and wildlife are being impaired by lack of this vital resource. <http://www.waterforwildlife.com>

**North American Grouse Partnership (NAGP)** - Promotes the conservation of prairie grouse and the habitats necessary for their survival and reproduction. <http://www.grousepartners.org>

**Pheasants Forever (PF)** – Some sage-grouse populations in Wyoming occur within areas that have a local PF chapter. Local chapters determine how their funds are spent. Game birds other than pheasants may be eligible for funding. <http://www.pheasantsforever.org/chapters/>

**Bow Hunters of Wyoming (BOW)** – BOW assists with wildlife studies, habitat improvement, water guzzlers and other conservation efforts. <http://www.bowhuntersofwyoming.vcn.com>